

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

(Object)

To offer such drive circuit for a switching device  
5 that can operate a soft cutoff function when short  
circuit is detected and also can be prevented from  
breakdown even if a narrow pulse is inputted.

(Means of Solving the Problems)

10 The present invention comprises a drive circuit 21  
that controls a switching device 23 ON/OFF and a soft  
cutoff command circuit that gradually decreases the gate  
terminal voltage of the switching device 23 when short  
circuit of the switching device 23 is detected. Besides,  
15 an ON-pulse retention command circuit 11 retains the  
output of the drive circuit 21 ON when the gate terminal  
voltage is judged to have exceeded a specified value by a  
gate voltage judgment comparator 16 that detects the gate  
terminal voltage of the switching device 23.